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Hurricane Preparedness - Are you Prepared?

As we have seen in earlier bulletins, hurricane season is here. With a more-active-than-usual season predicted, it's important for all of us to be prepared and the sooner the better.

Power outages can cause more than just discomfort in the heat. With no electricity we tend to rely on candlepower for light in the evening, but candles can be dangerous and result in a significant number of home fires every year.

Having an emergency power kit ready before a blackout occurs is a simple way to prepare for inconvenient and unavoidable power outages. The International Association of Fire Chiefs stresses the importance of having an emergency power kit and using flashlights and lanterns instead of candles during power outages.

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- a battery-powered radio or crank radio, to keep your family apprised of weather-related news
- plenty of extra batteries (AA, AAA, C, D and 9-volt). Lithium batteries have a long storage life, perform well in extreme temperatures and are perfect for use in LED flashlights and other high-tech devices
- specialty batteries: your health is your most important asset. Don't forget the specialty batteries that power critical health devices like hearing aids and blood glucose and blood pressure monitors
- a flashlight for every member of the family. Fire officials recommend use of flashlights instead of candles when the power goes out
- a battery-powered cell phone charger, to help keep the lines of communication open.